

MORGAN COUNTY CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL

January 12, 2012

MINUTES

Attendees:

Jessica Payne	Judge Shelly Waters
Ben Head	Cindy Anderson
Jackie Kinney	Dr. Sara Hall
Keona Williams	Joy Watkins
Michelle Belovsky	Allen Brown
Tyrone Phillips	H. Franklin Penn
Charles Langham	Tim Bolding
Vanessa Edmonds	Scott Anderson
Vanessa Turner	Kim O'Leary
Jeff Simmons	

Judge Shelly Slate Waters opened the meeting of the Morgan County Children's Policy Council at noon in Courtroom 300 of the Morgan County Courthouse. She informed all present that Pizza and Cookies were available for lunch. Judge Waters then passed out a sign-in sheet along with the agenda for the meeting. and a calendar of meetings for 2012.

The written minutes of the previous meeting of the MCCPC on October 13, 2011 were distributed and reviewed. After review, Vanessa Edmonds made a motion that the Minutes be approved as written and Jeff Simmons seconded. The Motion was approved by the Council.

Judge Waters then passed out the 2012 Calendar of Meetings for the Morgan County Children's Policy Council. She asked that any agency interested in hosting the next MCCPC Meeting Wednesday, April 18, 2012 please contact her. Otherwise, that meeting would be held in Courtroom 300 of the Morgan County Courthouse.

Judge Waters then noted that Cindy Anderson was the Chairperson of the Nomination Committee and that it was felt that the current Council had too many officers which were not required by the by-laws. She felt that a Chairman, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer were sufficient. Judge Water stated that, without a director, one of the District Judges must serve as Chairman and that she as willing to serve in that capacity. She

stated that Tonita Phipps had agreed to be Vice-President , that Judge Langham had agreed to serve as Secretary and that George Pollitt agreed to serve as Treasurer. Jeff Simmons moved that the number of officers be reduced to the four positions suggested by the Nominating Committee and Charles Langham seconded. Motion passed. Then, there being no nominations from the floor, Tim Bolding moved that the following Slate of Officers suggested by the Nominating Committee be approved and Tyrone Phillips seconded.

Chairman -----	District Judge Shelly Waters
Vice-President -----	Tonita Phipps
Secretary -----	District Judge Charles Langham
Treasurer -----	George Pollitt

The Motion passed.

The next item of business on the Agenda was the Needs Assessment. Judge Waters emphasized the importance of the Needs Assessment concerning grant proposals by the various agencies represented on the MCCPC. She noted that the April 30, 2012 MCCPC Committee Meetings agenda would be to develop the Needs Assessment. The agenda for the Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 would be Finalization of the Needs Assessment which is due by July 15, 2012. She encouraged everyone's input and participation in this task.

Judge Waters asked if any Agencies required Letters of Support. No Agency indicated a need for one at this time.

The next item on the Agenda was to go around the table for Agency News:

Cindy Anderson with Community Action advised the Council that CAC was busy assisting with utility needs, Meals on Wheels, and Head Start. She had no updates.

Tim Bolding of Neighborhood Christian Center announced that NCC had provided 10,000 toys for Christmas. NCC was also teaching classes at the Morgan and Lawrence Jails. They were also providing drug counseling for the Dream Center.

Joy Watkins of All-Kids announced that enrollment was open. She noted that children of State Employees and Educators were added to all kids which was a tremendous boost.

Jessica Payne of the Volunteer Center stated that her Agency had an exciting Christmas Season and the Center was able to provide shoe boxes of Christmas gifts for everyone who requested one. She also advised that 100 teens were served at Christmas Holiday Assistance and the response of the Community was outstanding. She asked for any volunteers willing to serve as mentors in the Friend to Friend Program which was being offered in Decatur and Hartselle Schools. She also discussed a new program with SOS - Game Plan - that focused on "coaching" rather

than mentoring at-risk kids. She credited Judge Waters with being the brainchild of this program and Jessica passed out brochures about the program. She stressed the need for coaches who would serve as role models. Jessica also requested the names of any girls who may need a Prom or Pageant dress from Cinderella's Closet.

Mr. Franklin Penn of Hartselle City Schools mentioned the continued construction of the new High School and the winning ways of the Hartselle Football program - State Champs. He also briefly touched on the Ambassadors Program for students to serve as hosts at the school.

Allen Brown of Lexihouse noted that contributions at Lexihouse were down by \$100,000 but that they were still in business serving Morgan County's homeless, pregnant girls. He pointed out that Epic Church had donated two acres and the goal was for Lexihouse to move into Decatur where it would be closer to services and its volunteers.

Dr. Sara Hall of SOS mentioned the Hands Home which can now admit Runaways and Homeless girls, Juvenile Court referrals, Mental Health referrals or even walk-ins so long as the girls are manageable since it is not a lock down facility. She noted that Hands Home even has some Therapeutic staff.

Jackie Kinney of Morgan County Schools is director of Federal Programs. She advised that funding was down but that they did receive a grant for Homeless students so can help with things like dentist bills, etc.

Keona Williams of Vocational Rehab can now help kids getting an Occupational Diploma find jobs while they are still in school. They can also assist with college expenses based on a sliding scale.

Michelle Belovsky of the Mental Health Assoc. noted that clients were provided with Christmas presents through Operation Santa Claus. She informed the Council that the Child Safety Conference would be held earlier on March 27, 2012 and that the keynote speaker would be Elizabeth Smart Utah. This year there will also be a separate track for substance abuse prevention through a Drug Free grant. The John and Lucy Caddell Alzheimer's Conference will be Monday, April 16, 2012 and CEU are available.

George Pollitt of United Way said they were wrapping up last year's campaign and hoping to raise more this year. He stated that he made need volunteers for a Community Listening program where people can get together to determine what needs to be done in the Community.

Tyrone Phillips with the Launch Program through the Decatur Career Center asked Council members to recommend young people between 17-21 for Occupational and Educational Assistance.

Kim O'Leary of Hospice of the Valley noted that finances were tough this year. She stated that the Friend to Friend Program was still available to help young people with

the grieving process and was offered at schools and at the Hospice Office. She also discussed two new Groups: Survivors of Suicide (SOS) and Stolen Sorrows which is for families and friends of homicide victims. Another new program is the 2M2H- too much to handle alone - which is offered at no cost.

Vanessa Edmonds of the Career Center stated that she had funding and was seeking employers of 50 or less who are willing to hire unemployed. They can pay the bulk of the cost of the employee if the small company qualifies.

Vanessa Turner of Morgan County SOS discussed the Academic Program which helped young people and said they had lots of success with this program. She mentioned that several were close to obtaining their GED. She also asked for work sites on the SW side of town for young people to volunteer.

Jeff Simmons, who is Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Morgan County, discussed the Juvenile Drug Court and the Family Drug Court. He advised that there were now 5 juveniles in that Court who were tested weekly and provided services. The Family Court currently has one participant who is in rehab which is being partly paid for Drug Court. DHR helps with this Court in an effort to get parents with drug problems to get back with their Children.

District Judge Shelly Waters stated that the Juvenile Drug Court was successful and had a lot of Agency support. She mentioned one Juvenile in particular who had made a complete turn-around after being referred to Drug Court. Two Juveniles were discharged from Drug Court because of a new charge involving a weapon for one and due to sheer stubbornness of the other.

Judge Waters asked if there was any Old Business and there was none.

Judge Waters asked if there was any New Business and there was none.

She reminded Council members to please attend the Committee Meeting on April 18, 2012 at noon and the next MCCPC Meeting on April 30, 2012. She stressed that the Needs Assessment impacts all Agencies abilities to obtain grants for the coming year. She stated that former Director Cindy Moses had volunteered to help in formulating the new Needs Assessment which is due by July 15, 2012.

There being no further business the Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge Charles Langham
Secretary